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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 3180.0255

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
TAKEHIKO TSUCHIYA ET AL.)
)
Application No.: 09/606,148) Group Art Unit: 2121
)
Filed: June 29, 2000) Examiner: S. Chang
)
For: CIRCUIT DESIGNING) Confirmation No.: 7735
APPARATUS, CIRCUIT DESIGN)
METHOD, AND COMPUTER)
READABLE RECORDING)
MEDIUM STORING A CIRCUIT)
DESIGNING PROGRAM)

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the Issue Fee and is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified under § 1.17(p) and a certification as specified under § 1.97(e). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

05/26/2006 SZEWDIE1 00000055 09606148

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Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a Notice of Grounds for Rejection issued by the Japanese Patent Office, mailed March 28, 2006, in a counterpart Japanese application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of the Notice.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of the Notice of Grounds for Rejection issued by the Japanese Patent Office in the counterpart Japanese application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. In addition, English-language Abstracts are provided for the Japanese publications.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

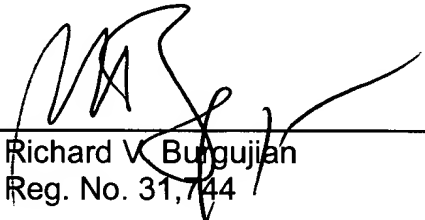
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 5/25/06

By: 
Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Application Number

09/606,148

Filing Date

June 29, 2000

First Named Inventor

Takehiko Tsuchiya

Art Unit

2121

Examiner Name

S. Chang

Attorney Docket Number

3180.0255

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
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Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 10-320426	12/4/98	Hitachi Ltd.		Abstract
		JP 10-254914	9/25/98	Mitsubishi Electric Corp.		Abstract
		JP 6-76016	3/18/94	Hitachi Ltd.		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		Notice of Grounds for Rejection issued by the Japanese Patent Office mailed March 28, 2006, for Japanese Patent Application No. H11-186819, and English-language translation thereof	

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.